Application No.: 10/521,084 Docket No.: 09669/043001

**REMARKS** 

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his consideration of the pending claims.

**Disposition of Claims** 

Claims 1-18, 20, 22, and 24-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8-10, 20, 22, and 24 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 8-10, and 20. Claims 19, 21, and 23 have been cancelled in this reply without prejudice or disclaimer.

**Claim Amendments** 

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of now cancelled claim 19. Independent claim 8 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of now cancelled claim 21. Independent claim 9 has been amended to include limitations previously presented for examination under claims 19 and 20. Independent claim 10 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of now cancelled claim 23. Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of all intervening claims. Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent to include the subject matter of all intervening claims. Claim 24 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of all intervening claims. Claims 25-30 are new and include the subject matter of claims 2-7, respectively. Applicant submits that no new subject matter has been included by these claim amendments. Further, the amendments do not necessitate a new search.

396640-1

Application No.: 10/521,084 Docket No.: 09669/043001

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13, 15, and 17

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over

U.S. Patent No. 6,754,725 ("Wright") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No.

2002/0178316 ("Schmisseur"). Claims 1, 8 and 10 have been amended by this reply to include

allowable subject matter of claim 19, 21 and 23, respectively. Claim 9 has been amended by this

reply to include allowable subject matter of claim 19 and 20. Thus, claims 1 and 8-10 are now in

allowable form and patentable over Wright and Schmisseur. Dependent claims are allowable for at

least the same reasons. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot and withdrawal is respectfully

requested.

Claim 5

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Wright in view of

Schmisseur and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,738,834 ("Williams"). Claim 1 has been

amended by this reply to include allowable subject matter of claim 19. Thus, claims 1 is now in

allowable form and patent over Wright, Schmisseur, and Williams. Dependent claim 5 is allowable

for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot and withdrawal is respectfully

requested.

396640-1

10

Application No.: 10/521,084 Docket No.: 09669/043001

Claims 12, 14, 16, and 18

Claims 12, 14, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Wright in view of Schmisseur and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0147912 ("Shmueli"). Claims 1, 8 and 10 have been amended by this reply to include allowable subject matter of claim 19, 21 and 23, respectively. Thus, claims 1 and 8-10 are now in allowable form and patentable over Wright, Schmisseur, and Shmueli. Dependent claims 12, 14, 16, and 18 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

**New Claims** 

New claims 25-30 depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowability.

## Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09669/043001).

Dated: August 4, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

#50031

F Jonathan P. Osha

Registration No.: 33,986 OSHA · LIANG LLP

1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800

Houston, Texas 77010

(713) 228-8600

(713) 228-8778 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant